

In the Claims:

Please amend claim 5, as follows:

In claim 5, line 4, delete "pager" and insert --PCD-- therefor.

Please add new claims 12-20 as follows:

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12. A method of coupling a portable communications device (PCD) to a first network by way of a second network, the PCD normally in radio communication with the first network, the PCD having a serial port and being coupled to the first network by way of the second network when the PCD is out of radio communication with the first network, the method comprising:

placing the PCD into a cradle having a serial port connector and a network connector so that the serial port of the PCD is coupled with the serial port connector of the cradle;

coupling the network connector of the cradle to the second network;

causing the PCD to leave a first network mode and enter a second network mode;

establishing a network connection with the first network by way of the second network; and

entering into communication with the first network by way of the cradle and the second network.

13. The method of claim 12 for coupling a pager to a first network by way of a second network, the pager normally in radio communication with the first network, the pager having a serial port and being coupled to the first network by way of the second network when the pager is out of radio communication with the first network, the method comprising:

AI placing the pager into a cradle having a serial port connector and a network connector so that the serial port of the pager is coupled with the serial port connector of the cradle;

coupling the network connector of the cradle to the second network;

causing the pager to leave a first network mode and enter a second network mode;

establishing a network connection with the first network by way of the second network; and

entering into communication with the first network by way of the second network.

14. The method of claim 13 wherein the pager is a two-way pager, and wherein entering into communication comprises entering into two-way communication with the first network by way of the second network.

15. The method of claim 12 further comprising:  
de-coupling the PCD from the second network upon ending communication  
therewith; and  
causing the PCD to leave the second network mode and enter the first network  
mode.

16. The method of claim 15 wherein de-coupling the PCD from the second  
network comprises removing the PCD from the cradle.

AI  
17. The method of claim 12 wherein causing the PCD to enter the second network  
mode comprises causing the PCD to gain the attention of and establish control over a network  
communications device.

18. The method of claim 17 wherein causing the PCD to enter the second network  
mode comprises causing the PCD to gain the attention of and establish control over a member of a  
group consisting of a modem and a network interface card.

19. The method of claim 12 wherein establishing the network connection  
comprises establishing a network connection with a base station of the first network by way of the  
second network.